



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

June 19, 2012

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2012-H 7942 Substitute B, "An Act Relating to Health and Safety- The Rhode Island Climate Risk Reduction Act of 2010."

The Rhode Island Climate Risk Reduction Act of 2010 created the independent Rhode Island Climate Change Commission, consisting of twenty-eight members, to study the projected impacts of climate change, identify and report methods of adapting to these climate changes, and to advise the state and municipalities regarding plans, programs, infrastructure development and maintenance that may be impacted by climate change. I strongly support the work of the Commission. The information it is collecting will be vital for reducing the impacts of climate change on the ecosystem and the economy.

However, this legislation would narrow the scope of the Commission by making it advisory to the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). While the CRMC plays a critical role in planning for some of the impacts of climate change, including but not limited to sea level rise, many other potential climate change impacts are outside of the CRMC's jurisdiction. Infrastructure development and maintenance, health and safety and water resources planning are some of the issue areas that climate change will likely impact that are outside the scope of the CRMC's jurisdiction and outside of its staffing expertise and resources.

The CRMC, Save The Bay, Conservation Law Foundation and the Chair of the Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team have requested a veto of this legislation based on similar concerns. While I strongly support the Climate Change Commission and its work I recommend that the Commission identify an organizational structure that provides the multidisciplinary expertise needed to support its purposes.

For the above reasons, I disapprove of the aforementioned legislation, H 7942 Substitute B, and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln D. Chafee".

Lincoln D. Chafee